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Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of claims follows, with indicated amendments:

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A complete list of pending claims follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A wire rope and socket combination, comprising:
 - a wire rope socket, wherein the wire rope socket is internally threaded, and wherein a vent hole is located below the threaded portion of the socket;
 - a rope formed of strands of twisted wires extending into the wire rope socket;
 - one or more of the strands of the twisted wires being bent over 180 degrees within the wire rope socket;
 - one or more of the strands of the twisted wires remaining unbent and generally straight within the wire rope socket, wherein the selection of the number of strands of twisted wire bent over 180 degrees and the selection of the number of strands of twisted wire remaining unbent are made to set the breaking strength of the wire rope socket; and
 - babbit securing the rope in the wire rope socket.
2. (Previously Amended) The wire rope and socket combination of claim 1, wherein the wire rope socket has a tapered bore, and the bent strands are bent in the direction of narrowing of the tapered bore.
3. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a wire rope socket, the method comprising the steps of:
 - bending one or more but not all of the strands of a rope formed of strands of twisted wires over 180 degrees to form bent strands;